

Budgeting for the holidays can be tricky, but with a little planning, you can enjoy the season without overspending. Here are some easy tips to help you stay on track:

Set a Holiday Spending Limit

- Decide on a total budget for gifts, decorations, travel, and events.
- Break this amount down into categories like gifts, food, entertainment.
- Make sure your budget fits within your regular income without dipping into savings or going into debt.

Make a List of Expenses

- Write down everyone you plan to buy for and set a spending limit for each.
- Include other holiday expenses like travel, meals, and decorations to get a full picture of your costs.

Shop Early and Spread Out Purchases

- Start shopping early to avoid last-minute rushes and inflated prices.
- Spreading purchases over a couple months can make the financial impact less noticeable.

Use Cash or a Separate Account

- Stick to cash or a prepaid debit card to prevent overspending.
- You can also set up a separate account specifically for holiday expenses to avoid dipping into your regular budget.

DIY Gifts and Decorations

- Hand-made gifts or decorations can add a personal touch and save money.
- Bake treats, create photo albums, or make crafts instead of buying expensive presents.

Limit Non-Gift Holiday Spending

- Reduce unnecessary costs by opting for potluck meals instead of expensive dinners or free activities like caroling and watching holiday movies at home.

By planning ahead, tracking expenses, and being mindful about your spending, you can enjoy a festive holiday season without financial stress!

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